

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 035532/0107

In re patent application of

Kenji SAKANOUE *et al.*

Serial No. Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

For: DOOR DEVICE FOR VENDING MACHINE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the following paragraphs with the following rewritten paragraphs. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Please replace the first paragraph on page 2 with the following paragraph:

In the molding of the conventional door body 100, however, the step of bending, the step of welding, and the step of finishing are necessary. That is, the necessary number of steps is large, and, thus, this requires a lot of time and causes a high cost in the molding. Further, although the welded portion is finished, finishing to a fully smooth extent is difficult. In this case, the welded portion having surface irregularities sometimes spoils the appearance of the door body. Further, the welded portion has poor corrosion resistance, and this necessitates, for example, rust preventing treatment after the finishing.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 4 with the following paragraph:

According to this construction, the bottom also is integrally formed without any joint. This better facilitates the production of the door device and, in addition, can improve the appearance and the corrosion resistance.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 4 and continued on page 5 with the following paragraph:

According to this construction, the portion for connecting the front to the side, the portion for connecting the front to the bottom, and the portion for connecting the side to the bottom have a curved surface or a spherical surface. This can avoid local concentration of and can disperse the expansion and the contraction of the sheet member at the time of pressing and thus can prevent a local reduction in wall thickness of the door body or cockling.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) The door device according to claim 1, wherein the bottom, the front, and the side of the door body have been integrally molded without any joint.

7. (Amended) The door device according to claim 1, which has a decoration in a concave/convex form, on the front, produced by pressing.

12. (Amended) The door device according to claim 8, which has a decoration in a concave/convex form, on the inner face of the display concave, produced by pressing.

Please add the following new claims:

13. (New) The door device according to claim 4, which has a decoration in a concave/convex form, on the front, produced by pressing.

14. (New) A door device for opening/closing the front of a vending machine body, said door device comprising an integrally molded structure of a front, a side, and a bottom of a door body, without any joint, produced by pressing of a single sheet of a metal member.

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

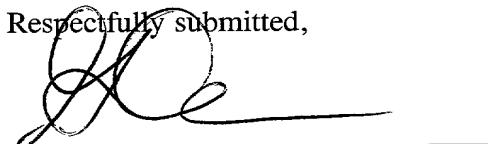
Upon amendment of the claims as set forth above, claims 1-14 are now pending.

The amendments to the specification are made to correct clerical and grammatical errors and are not deemed to change the scope of the invention.

Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Date

8/1/01

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**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Marked up version of the first paragraph 5 on page 2:**

In the molding of the conventional door body 100, however, the step of bending, the step of welding, and the step of finishing are necessary. That is, the necessary number of steps is large, and, thus, this requires [in] a lot of time and causes a high cost in the molding. Further, although the welded portion is finished, finishing to a fully smooth extent is difficult. In this case, the welded portion having surface irregularities sometimes spoils the appearance of the door body. Further, the welded portion has poor corrosion resistance, and this necessitates, for example, rust preventing treatment after the finishing.

**Marked up version of paragraph 15 at page 3:**

According to this construction, the bottom also is integrally formed without any joint. This [more] better facilitates the production of the door device and, in addition, can improve the appearance and the corrosion resistance.

**Marked of version of paragraph 17 at page 3:**

According to this construction, [since] the portion for connecting the front to the side, the portion for connecting the front to the bottom, and the portion for connecting the side to the bottom have a curved surface or a spherical surface. This can avoid local concentration of and can disperse the expansion and the contraction of the sheet member at the time of pressing and thus can prevent a local reduction in wall thickness of the door body or cockling.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

4. (Amended) The door device according to [any one of claims 1 to 3,] claim 1, wherein the bottom, the front, and the side of the door body have been integrally molded without any joint.

7. (Amended) The door device according to [any one of claims 1 to 6,] claim 1 which has a decoration in a concave/convex form, on the front, produced by pressing.

12. (Amended) The door device according to [any one of claims 8 to 11,] claim 8 which has a decoration in a concave/convex form, on the inner face of the display concave, produced by pressing.